

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the final Office Action of May 31, 2006 is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 15-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Following submission of a Request for Reconsideration on August 31, 2006, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action dated October 2, 2006, in which the previous rejections were maintained. Subsequently, the Applicants' representative discussed the rejections with the Examiner by telephone on October 12, 2006 and October 20, 2006. During the telephone conversation of October 20, 2006, the Examiner proposed amendments to independent claims 15, 21, 27, and 31 that would overcome the Examiner's § 112 rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, independent claims 15, 21, 27, and 31 have now been amended, and the claim amendments are identical to the claim amendments proposed by the Examiner during the telephone interview of October 20, 2006. As a result, it is the Applicants' understanding that these claim amendments now place claims 15-34 in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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